



Job hunting means letting go of the old and moving on to the new. Leaving your current situation means change. Change, even change for the better, generally demands a period of adjustment.

The good news is that all of us, as job hunters, experience this to some degree. More good news is that you are already in the middle of a process that millions of people have already navigated before you. This is no *Star Trek* where “No man has gone before.” Plenty have gone ahead of you, thus laying a great foundation for you to start on.

During the change process you will experience a number of stages: *denial, resistance, experience, and acceptance*. These stages don’t fall in any neat orderly fashion, like you might want, one after the other. Actually, you could go back and forth between them for a while. The whole process could take several months.



DENIAL While at this stage, you will minimize or just deny what has happened. You may pretend what happened was great.



RESISTANCE At this stage, you’ll try to fight the change. You may feel angry. You could blame others for what occurred. You may feel afraid and try to avoid taking any action.



EXPERIENCE At this stage, you’ll fully experience the change for all its reality, feeling the full effect. You may even feel sad that you can’t continue in your old situation (even if you didn’t like it). Friends and family can be a real help in keeping a positive attitude during this stage.



ACCEPTANCE Around this time, you start accepting the situation for what it is. This helps you to let go. Once here, you might wonder “What now?”

Working through the stages takes time and patience. None of us go through the stages alike either, so don’t get down on yourself if you seem to be staying in one stage longer than you think you should. Your feelings could go on a roller coaster ride. One day you could feel discouraged, and another day, great! It’s all normal. Understanding the process helps you to move through the stages while staying focused on your task, whether that be finding another job, or a college to accept you.

Source: *Texas Career Success*



Okay, you’re a senior or junior in high school and you’re interested in going to college. Well, if that’s the case, you need to be doing something about it and the sooner the better. For the freshmen and sophomores, there’s no rush just yet. Some would say you could start now and there’s no real harm in looking, but really, shouldn’t you get a few high school courses under your belt first?

Anyway, for those of you who should be starting, you’ll want to be considering taking the ACT and/or SAT real soon. At or toward the end of your junior year, you’ll want to be collecting application information from those schools you are interested in. During the summer between your junior and senior years is a good time to visit the schools of your choice. Granted, this isn’t always possible if you live more than several hours driving distance away.

Maybe the family has a summer trip planned and it just happens to be at a location near a preferred college. Is it possible to hitch a ride with a parent/grandparent/aunt/uncle who is going on a business trip to a place close to the campus? If so, you might want to see about taking a tour then. This is a time when colleges are expecting you. They provide tours for potential incoming students. They can also connect you with current students who’ll meet with you and/or talk on the phone or via e-mail. This is a good way to learn about a school.

At the start of your senior year, you’ll want to stay on top of things. Many deadlines will come and go during the year so you should be taking notes now.

September

- ✎ Finish sending your college applications.
- ✎ Check to be sure you’re on target for meeting your high school graduation requirements. Your guidance counselor can help.
- ✎ If necessary, re-take the ACT and/or SAT tests.

October

- ✎ Call or write the admissions offices to obtain financial aid information from the schools to which you’ve applied.
- ✎ Check with your guidance counselor to see if your school offers a financial aid workshop. This is usually open to students and parents.

November

- ✎ Be quick in responding to requests from the college admissions offices.
- ✎ Seasons Greetings

January

- ✎ Collect copies of your parent’s W-2’s and 1099’s once they’ve filled out their federal tax returns. You’ll need these for your financial aid application.
- ✎ Be sure to complete and send in your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Forms are available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ✎ Check to see if your high school transcripts are being/have been sent to interested schools.

February

- ✎ Check for financial aid deadlines that your schools might have.

March

- ✎ Check again for financial aid deadlines at your schools.
- ✎ Pay attention to any “requests for information” you receive from the college admissions or financial aid offices. You should reply as quickly as possible.

April

- ✎ Consider the offers you’ve received and decide on your choice of school to attend and notify them.
- ✎ DON’T decline other offers yet! Wait until you receive confirmation from your first choice.
- ✎ Once you have received confirmation, let the others know you will not be attending their school.
- ✎ Now, check the financial aid deadline for your school.
- ✎ You may receive financial aid award notification. You may also need to follow through with your local lender as well.

May

- ✎ Double check on your high school transcripts. Be sure they get to the school you selected.

Congrats on your graduation, and enjoy the summer!

During, but before summer’s end, you’ll want to follow up with the financial aid office to be sure all is in order. You don’t want any last minute surprises! Pay attention to information you’ll receive from the school. Check on dorm check-in dates/times. Attend orientation if at all possible.

GOOD LUCK!

Rules, Rules, Rules			
School		Work	
Dress code	Aagh!	Uniform	brown shirt & pants
Tardy	uh oh	Late for work	lose \$
Class schedule	oh man!	Work schedule	8-4, M-F, lunch/break
Homework	more!?	Projects	another one!?
Detention	ah, come on!	Reprimand	goes in file
Suspended	with homework	On Notice	shape up!
Expelled	@#&%\$!	Fired	@#&%\$!